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the objects of their care, by removing whatever may be considered as a serious obstruction to the superintendant of education in discharge of the very important trust reposed in him.

The emulation excited in the various charitable seminaries in this city and its vicinity, which are in the habit of sending their children to the annual catechetical examinations established by "the society for discountenancing vice and promoting the knowledge and practice of the christian religion," has been productive of the most happy consequences; and it is to be lamented that any of our charitable institutions should decline to participate in an advantage, the value of which has been so decidedly ascertained by the experience of fifteen successive years. The answering at these examinations is, to every person anxious for the diffusion of religious knowledge among the children of the poor, truly interesting; the emulation, not only among the children, but among the masters, mistresses, and assistants, who feel themselves deeply interested for the credit of their respective establishments, has produced a general progressive improvement, and we trust, that so respectable an institution as the Hibernian School will not, by declining such a trial, leave room for a suspicion of conscious inferiority.

Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, }
 September 21st. 1809. } (Signed)
 WM. ARMAGH, (L. S.)
 GEO. HALL, Provost, (L. S.)
 JAS. VERSCHOYLE } (L. S.)
 Dean of St. Patrick's }
 WILLIAM DISNEY (L. S.)
 RICHD. L. EDGEWORTH (L. S.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HAVING formerly offered some observations respecting the management of bees, I shall now take the liberty of making some additional remarks on that subject.

The season is now come, when the proprietor of the bees is to receive from his apiary, part of the produce of the spring and summer; and here, two subjects of consideration present themselves to view. First, in what manner are the bees to be robbed of their wax and honey? And second, which

the best time for doing so? The usual mode adopted in this country, for accomplishing the first object, is to destroy the bees, by the fumes of burning sulphur. Besides the cruelty which there seems to be, in destroying those industrious and generous insects, in order to reap the fruit of their labours, the impolicy of it argues strongly against the practice. Would it not be for the interest of the proprietor, to save his bees, in order that his stock might increase from year to year? and with this view, should he not endeavour to find out some expedient for saving the bees, at the same time that he might possess himself of part of their store?

Mr. Wildman directs that after a swarm has been put into one of his straw skeps, (which are not made of a conical shape, as is usual at present, but cylindrical, that one skep may just fit another, and may rest on it, when required) another of the same size shall be put over it, that the bees may have sufficient room to work. If necessary, a third may be added, that the bees may have every encouragement to collect an abundant stock. After the working season is over, Mr. Wildman directs that the upper skep, which the bees will have filled with wax and honey, be taken away, they having retired into the skep below, where they resolve taking up their residence for the winter. They will thus be confined to a comparatively small space, which is most suitable for them, during the winter season. But care must be taken, to observe, from time to time, in what state they are from cold, or from scarcity or provisions, in the early part of spring, when the changing season calls forth their energies, and again invites them to the field. For they should be rather plentifully supplied than otherwise, as they will thus be more forward in spring and ultimately yield a greater increase.

A friend of mine proposes to adopt a plan in some respects similar to the above. He has constructed a large case of deals sufficient to contain eight or ten hives. This opens with folding doors from behind, and is raised to about a foot and a half from the ground. Having received a swarm in

a skep of the common construction, he places it in the wooden case above described, and forms a passage for the bees from the skep to without, by the front, not allowing them to pass in any other direction. When the bees have pretty well filled the skep with combs and honey, he takes a box, which is nearly square, and somewhat larger in the upper surface than the bottom of the skep, and places it under the skep. In the upper part of the box there is a square aperture for the purpose of forming a communication between the skep and box, which can be stopped at pleasure, by means of a sliding bar. Having received this increase of space, the colony will double their diligence in increasing their magazine of provision, and if the season prove favourable, will soon have the straw skep completely stowed with wax and honey. If thought advisable, the sliding bar may then be pushed in, and the skep removed. It is to be presumed that the bees will now be wholly or principally in the box. If it be apprehended that some are still above, these may be destroyed in the ordinary way by the fumes of sulphur. It may not however be advisable to take any part of their stock the first year, since in this climate, it rarely happens, that even a strong hive can fill a moderately sized skep in one season. At the end of the second season, the bees will have collected a larger store, and there will then be less danger of being put to the necessity of destroying, as above, any members of the colony, and less trouble in saving them during the winter.

By the above mode, my friend proposes to prevent the bees from swarming, which occasions an increase of trouble and expense, to reap a greater produce from them, and to save the lives of these interesting, and useful insects. How far he may succeed, I cannot at present say, as the plan has not yet been fully tried. I may hereafter communicate the result of his experiments on these subjects.

I shall conclude this paper by remarking, that I apprehend proprietors are in general too late in putting down their bees. Even so early as this day

(11th September) I observe, that the bees especially of the strong hives, are scarcely stirring, though the sun be shining, and the weather moderately warm. They must of course have already begun to consume their stock, and, at any rate, it cannot be expected that they will now make any addition to it. I see a few bees working on a bed of mignonette, but the quantity of honey now collected must be so small, that I conceive those who have bees should immediately take those hives which they intend for use. In those years in which the latter part of the season is uncommonly favourable, it may be proper to let the hives remain till after the beginning of October; but I believe, in general, hives should be put down towards the middle of September. A. Z.

P.S. I would gladly learn from some of your correspondents, what the nature of that substance is which wasps collect in their combs, and whether or not it could be applied to any use?

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

HAVING in vain, sought for some account of the discovery of potatoe oats, from those of my friends who were to be supposed best acquainted with the subject, I take the liberty, through your magazine, to inquire of some of your informed correspondents, whence this valuable species of oats has been derived, and from what circumstance it is that it obtains its name? It is natural for agriculturalists to wish to know some particulars of this excellent species of grain. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SKETCH OF A RAMBLE,

Taken September, 1809.

EARLY on a beautiful morning of last September, I set out from Carrickfergus, to visit an acquaintance in the eastern part of Island Magee. The morning possessed all the charms of the season; the sun had nearly made his appearance, and his bright slanting rays reflected from the unruffled surface of the bay a dazzling light,